
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5386

AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS.

SUMMARY:

This bill gives certain veterans two preferences when seeking housing assistance. It requires:

1. housing authorities to prefer such veterans who are eligible for housing in low rent projects to other similarly eligible persons when the housing authority finds the applicants' respective housing needs to be substantially equal; and
2. the commissioner of social services to prefer such veterans eligible for the rental assistance program, as a member of a low-income family living in privately-owned rental housing, against other similarly eligible persons whose needs for rental assistance the commissioner finds to be substantially equal to the veterans' need.

The bill makes other technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

PREFERRED VETERANS

The bill extends its housing and rental assistance preferences to veterans who are "preference eligible veterans" under federal law, which generally means those individuals honorably or generally discharged following active duty service in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard and who

1. served during a war;
2. served in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized;

3. served during the Korean War (April 28, 1952 to July 1, 1955);
4. served for at least six consecutive months any time from January 31, 1955, to October 15, 1976, not including National Guard or reserve service;
5. served during the first Gulf War (August 2, 1990 to January 2, 1992);
6. served for at least six consecutive months any time from September 11, 2001, to the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom, August 31, 2010;
7. presently have a service-connected disability or receive compensation, disability retirement benefits, or veterans' pension benefits; or
8. were discharged because they were their family's sole surviving child, and other family members had died while serving in the armed forces.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/12/2013)